

SPORTS



The competition's basic motto, expressing the purpose of the Olympic movement, is close and dear both to the participants and guests of Friendship-84 and those welcoming them. More than 2,000 young men and women will compete in Moscow in eight Olympic events: athletics (men), rowing, basketball, cycling (track), swimming, field hockey (men), and polo and school shooting. Tallen will welcome the sailing regatta, the winter event.

All the events are being held in the country's top sporting arenas, which four years ago hosted the 1980 Games. Over these years they have become still better equipped and made much more comfortable for the athletes, judges, viewers and the press. They have hosted very representative contest as well as mass competitions and jogging clubs, health groups, and children's groups. Some 30,000 Muscovites of all ages constantly build up their health and raise sporting standards in the arenas of the Lenin Central Stadium alone.

Sports fans are justified to expect from Friendship-84 interesting competition and record results, since it is attended by many Olympic, world and European champions. They will compete on the schedule of the Olympic Games and world championships. The standards of the tournament in all its sports enable them to refer to the top A category, i.e. this international competition is equivalent in significance, from the standards of international sports federations, to world and European championships.

Just started now is the second stage of Friendship-84, the most representative in several of the events. The first one was held prior to the 1984 Games, emphasizing top sporting preparation of its participants.

Friendship-84 is no alternative to the Los Angeles Olympics, and its organizers laboriously took care not to make them coincide with the period of the Games. The athletes of the socialist nations were preparing hard for the Olympics, but the breach of the Olympic Charter by the Los Angeles Games Organizing Committee and the anti-Soviet and anti-socialist hysteria meant by the American administration deprived them of the possibility to compete in Los Angeles. So Friendship-84 enables the athletes of all nations which missed the Games to show their skills. The athletes of the socialist community invited to the event the participants of the Los Angeles Games, too.



Decathlete Tordis Foss of the GDR during his long jump.

To arrive are participants in one of the 408 m hurdles heats, Hungarian Jozsef Szalai (338) and Vasily Arkhipov (121) of the USSR.

A section of the sprinters.

FORECASTS AND OPINIONS

The cycling tournament on the Moscow Olympic track in Krylatskoye promises to be exceptionally interesting, considers Olympic champion Anton Tkacik now training leading Czechoslovak sprinters. Here, unlike at the Los Angeles Games, the really top world racers will compete. They have set the pace in world cycling in the past four years. I am sure, the performance of world champions Sergei Kopylov of the USSR and Lutz Hentsch of the GDR, the Moscow Games champion, will please both viewers and specialists. Many young racers have appeared, tuned in to record speeds. It is precisely at these events that one could sum up the development of the world track cycling over the last ten years.

My forecast: the main competition in Krylatskoye, as in the latest world championships, should unfold between Soviet and GDR racers, though there may be exceptions.

The women's basketball tournament, said USSR team chief coach Lygia Alekseyeva, will be very interesting because its competition is representative. Taking part will be 1980 Games silver medalist Bulgaria, and Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia which have won various medals

FIRST RESULTS

More than 100 athletes, among them world, Olympic, European and national winners, are competing at Moscow's Olympic stadium in 24 events. They are last-moving — taking only two days. In our next issue we will sum up this interesting contest. More than 230 athletes from 18 different nations are attending a three-day tournament in Prague, among them 15 world record-holders, 12 Olympic champions and ten world champions. The programme has 17 events, just like the Los Angeles Olympics.

Here are the results of the female winners. For the sake of comparison the results which brought the Olympic golds last

a month ago in Los Angeles are shown in brackets. 100 m dash: Marike Coh of the GDR — 10.65 (10.97). 100 m hurdles: Iordanka Donkova (Bulgaria) — 12.55 (12.8). Javelin: Petra Felke of the GDR — 73 m 30 cm (67 m 50 cm). 400 m: Marike Koh of the GDR — 48.10 (48.83). 1,000 m: Tatyana Kazantseva of the USSR — 8:30.1 (8:35.9). In the diving contest in Budapest the 1983 European champion Brita Bejdok of the GDR won the 3 m springboard, and Zhanna Tatrunkova and Tatyana Alyabyeva, both of the USSR, coming second and third. No countries took part.



in European championships. At the May elimination tournament in Havana, Cuba qualified for the 1984 Olympics, while the People's Democratic Republic of Korea is one of the strongest in Asia. As for the Soviet team, it is the top Olympic champion, and basketball fans will see Ulyana Semyonova, Olga Sukharova, and Lyudmila Mitrova, who brought the team two Olympic golds.

In selecting players for Friendship-84 I gave preference to experience, said chief coach of the USSR men's team Alexander Gomelsky. It will feature ten world champions. The composition of the tournament is promising. Among the opponents I would primarily point to Czechoslovakia and Poland — which are among the strongest in Europe, as well as rapidly progressing Sweden. I am sure that modern basketball will prevail in Moscow — fast, beautiful and combinatorial.

The Hungarian team for the Moscow Friendship-84 contest will be led by the country's top

athletes, said one of the heads of the Hungarian delegation Andor Arday. Hungarian sports lovers are looking forward to this interesting international event. Our athletes will practically every competition to be held in Moscow and Tallinn. They have trained very seriously for Friendship-84 and see it as their main sporting event of the year. The results of the competition will reflect the real picture of the balance of power in sports and will be another step in its development. We will remember the remarkable organization of the Moscow Games and this is why our delegation gladly accepted the invitation of the USSR Sports Committee to attend this contest.

The events were covered by our special correspondents Alexander Bulsenin and Yegor Lantsev. Photos by Andriy Kapustin.

No. 65 (580), AUGUST 21-24, 1984

Price 5 kopeks



FRIENDSHIP-84

The Lenin Central Stadium in Moscow. The opening ceremony of the International Friendship-84 competitions. 100,000 watch the 90-minute spectacular event.



◆ Athletes from almost 30 countries, including 125 world and Olympic title-holders, demonstrate their skills on the Friendship-84 Moscow and Tallinn facilities.

◆ The track-and-field event has been noted for high results: one world and several national records have been established.

◆ World records were broken four times at the Olympic cycling track in Krylatskoye during the second day of the competition which are still going on.

◆ The sailing regatta in Tallinn has been called an tournament of record-breaking hospitality by the Canadian team manager Hugh Drake. These are genuine friendship states, press are told by the athletes, judges, fans and guests of the Friendship-84 competitions in which the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, the GDR, Cuba and Mongolia are taking part.

E. HONECKER: TO PRESERVE MILITARY-STRATEGIC BALANCE

Berlin. The GDR will continue to be consistent in observing its obligations in the Warsaw Treaty Organization in order to preserve the balance of military-strategic balance, Erich Honecker, Central Secretary of the German Democratic Republic, said today. He said the GDR, has declared. He said the counter-measures would be taken in accordance with obligations arising out of the Warsaw Treaty on non-use of force by the USA and NATO.

A return to the situation which existed before the deployment of US missiles would open the door for negotiations. Disregard for this suggestion and further deployment of the American first-strike weapons in West Germany and other West European countries would considerably accelerate a new round of the arms race, E. Honecker pointed out. The General Secretary stated that the conclusion of Treaty on non-use of

military force and maintaining of relations of peace between the Warsaw Treaty member-states and NATO members were of special significance. Also such measures as a freeze on all nuclear armaments, renouncing first use of nuclear weapons, banning chemical and bacteriological weapons, prohibiting militarization of the outer space — all these would contribute to disarmament and defense and strengthen trust among states, E. Honecker stressed.

NEGATING THE TREATY

New York. The dangerous plans of the Reagan administration which envisage the deployment of anti-space, arms and the establishment of a powerful system of anti-missile defense are calculated to undermine the USSR-US Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, signed in 1972.

(Continued on page 2)

FACTS and EVENTS

◆ Pakistan has already received 21 F-16 fighter bombers out of the 40 promised by the United States, the Indian newspaper "Times of India" reports. Supplies are coming in ahead of schedule. According to the newspaper, these latest US-produced planes are deployed at the air force base in Sargodha

FROM COSMETICS TO SPACE

Normally there are throngs of people visiting the country's main show, USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements. These days are no exception for there is a constant stream of visitors to the current Indian Trade Fair organized in the same place. The organizers are not merely helping visitors to this fair to know more about the customs of the far-away land but are also providing them with lots of insights into life in present-day India.

The items displayed range from Lakme cosmetics, which are quite popular with female Muscovites, to India's first space satellite. The fair is open from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. daily.



Picture shows Indian national costumes from various states. Photo by Boris Kautzman.

from which they can deliver strikes at military and civilian targets deep in the territories of India and Afghanistan.

◆ Israeli invaders have taken yet another step towards separating southern Lebanon from the rest of the country. The occupation authorities declared on August 19 that the only highway that was used for connection with occupied regions would be closed for all transports. Only pedestrians would be allowed to

pass through the checkpoint set up by the invaders on the highway.

◆ The racist South African regime is stepping up its militarization of illegally occupied Namibia, turning it into a springboard of aggression against the neighbouring African states. Pretoria allocated about 1,500 million dollars this fiscal year for expanded military construction and maintenance of its occupational forces in Namibia, totalling some 100 thousand men.



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"MN Information" comes out on Tuesdays and Saturdays and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and to the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies.

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Address: 16/2 Gorky St. Moscow, USSR. Printed at the "Yevropa" Press, Moscow, USSR. Published Tuesday, and Saturday. Index 58078.

MN INFORMATION No. 64, 1984

Round the Soviet Union

● A FLEET OF SPECIAL CRAFT IS NOW IN OPERATION ALONG THE LENA RIVER IN THE IRKUTSK REGION TO ENSURE THE RIVER'S PURITY. The upper reaches are also protected by several of such ships sweeping all sticks from the surface and depositing them in special tanks.

● A STREET IN ANADYR HAS BEEN NAMED AFTER VIKTOR BERING, THE FAMOUS NAVIGATOR. Many streets in this easternmost town in the USSR bear names of the pioneers whose memory is carefully preserved by the northerners.

Small rivers to produce energy

This country has resumed the construction of hydroelectric stations on small rivers, irrigation canals and on small water reservoirs.

Large-scale construction of such stations took place in the USSR during the first postwar years, resulting in a total capacity of 1,500 megawatts. Big hydroprojects were also built at the same time. During the 1940s the small stations lost their competitiveness and most of them were shut down.

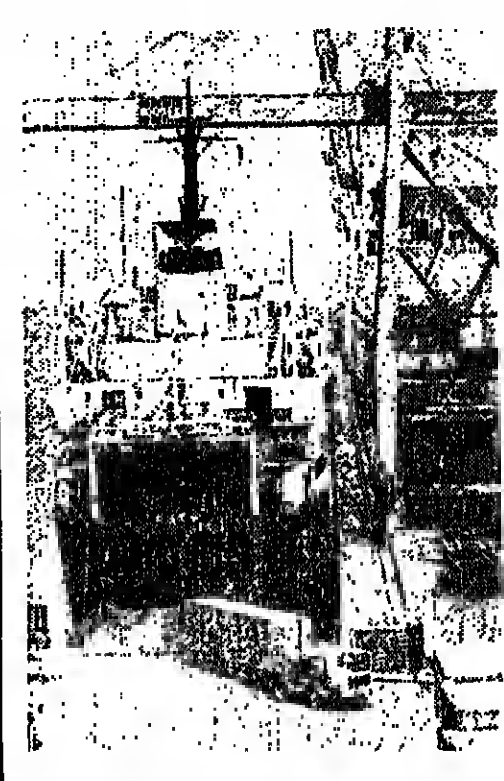
However, now many engineers believe that construction of new and modernization of existing small hydroelectric stations is quite feasible. They can be made efficient by using standardized designs and mass-produced equipment.

Last year the USSR produced 1,410,000 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, one-sixth of the world total.

The Soviet power industry is based around big thermal, atomic and hydroelectric stations. Through small power projects cannot substitute for the "big power industry", they can become an important addition to it.

A HOSPITABLE BALTIC PORT

Ships flying foreign flags constantly call at Riga's seaport. Over eight hundred of them have come this year from many countries. The Riga dockers have handled over three and a half million tonnes of various cargoes.



One of the many sea routes links Riga with the French ports of Le Havre and Dunkirk. A mutually advantageous exchange of cargoes has been going on without interruption between them and Riga since 1950. One of our photos shows the new container terminal for ships operating between the USSR and France.

They are RO-RO ships for horizontal loading—the Soviet "Engel'nik Sukhorukov" and the French "Bordone". Besides them there are also the Soviet trailer ships "Moshen'ko Fyodorov" and "Engel'nik Kremla", the French "Glinka", "Debussy", and others. Soviet and French experts find complete mutual understanding in handling the cargoes.



The young Soviet engineer Viktor Kastenko and Eric Leleuvre, chief mate of the "Bordone".

MAN-MADE SEA

Specialists in land reclamation in Northern Osetia and Kabardin-Balkaria (the Transcaucasian autonomous republics) are the orid steppes in the foothills of the Smaller Caucasus into a zone of guaranteed and stable harvests. Hydraulic engineers of both autonomous republics have completed preparatory work on the project of the Terek-Mala reservoir. Water flow conditions of alpine rivers and the relief of the terrain have been studied, the mathematical model of the dam has been made, the topographical marking of the foundation of the dam and the layout of the reservoir has been conducted.

This year it is envisaged to set up a building base for the largest hydroelectric structures in the North Caucasus. The waters of alpine rivers will fill the enormous natural bowl near the confluence of the Terek River with the Tula. The Terek River with its tributaries—the small Mula and Kizil—flows in the glacial valleys. The capacity of the reservoir will exceed 500 million cubic metres, including 100 million of land.

Oil in Western Azerbaijan

A new oil deposit has been marked on the geological map of Soviet Azerbaijan (the Transcaucasian republic). It is located in the Tuzlu Suu field in the Kizil Suu steppe in the first 24 km from the Terek River.

The new deposit is relatively close to the Terek River. This will help to exploit it efficiently and quickly. The oil work confirmed the position on available oil reserves in Western Azerbaijan.

not to warm up the permafrost during pumping operations. At junctions of reindeer migration routes with gas pipelines the pipes are raised as high as the support. On recommendations by specialists the network of roads along the pipeline routes is being expanded, and more grass and moss are being sown in places burned by the construction.

Northern reindeer. Ecological considerations figure prominently in construction plans for the Far North, whose nature is especially vulnerable.

Stations for cooling gas are being built on each of the currently laid gas pipelines in order

ECOLOGY AND GAS PIPELINES

The cost of ecological measures is now approximately a tenth of the cost of Soviet gas pipelines built in the Far North, and will double in the next few years due to additional nature protection measures. The new pipelines will, for instance, circumvent the moss pastures of

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

THE RESURGENCE OF THE DESNA

The Desna, one of the most beautiful rivers in the European part of the country, is regaining its former deepness and majesty. In large measure due to the work done by the standing interrepublican committee on the problems of the Desna basin, writes IZVESTIYA. The committee, representing eight areas in the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Russian Federation, has for the first time (the Desna basin covers 900,000 sq km) decided to restore its natural resources and thus reduce the efforts of all economic, Soviet and Party bodies and public organizations and drew up a purpose-oriented long-term programme.

Every single detail was taken into account in the formulation of the general scientifically substantiated plan for using and restoring the natural resources of the Desna basin. More wide-ranging goals were also mapped out, like the construction of reservoirs and purification facilities, reclamation of lowland lands, and the creation of protection forest belts, all this simultaneously within the bounds of the vast region.

Every proposal was carefully studied, and it found appropriate inclusion in the programme. For instance, after thorough consideration, the Chernogor'ye region voted against construction of 64,000 hectares of bogland and declared them a preserve, and the committee went along with that. After this decision was taken, drainage was stopped at many thousands of hectares in the Sumy and Sverdlovsk regions. In the Kaluzhsk region, the people took under their protection nearly all the springs, while people in Kiev did a lot to reinforce the banks of the Desna.

The committee's work under the river pure and deep again. It now has over 70 purification facilities, and 85,000 hectares of protective forest belts were planted along its banks. Other interrepublican and interrepublican committees are now being set up on the example of the Desna committee, the paper points out.

WHEN A CITY NEEDS METRO?

The number of the cities, which have Metro, is increasing in the country from year to year. Today nine cities have it. Metro is being built in Kuzbyshev, Novosibirsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Sverdlovsk and Gorky. Designing work has started in such cities as Ulyan, Alma-

Ain, Rostov-on-Don, Chelyabinsk, Ufa, Omsk, Perm, Odessa, Donetsk and Krasnodar.

What conditions must be met by a city to claim for Metro? This point is discussed by the newspaper SOVSISTEMICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA. A decision on the construction of Metro is taken if the population number reaches the one million mark. But this is only one of the factors taken into account, writes the paper. Just as important is the planning structure of the city, the scope and distribution of industrial and residential areas.

For example, the construction of Metro in Ufa was prompted by the great distance of industrial zones and dwellings. The fact that the city is scattered on a vast territory decided the question on the need of Metro in Ufa.

In Riga experts came across other peculiarities of the planning structure. The historically established centre of that city, its narrow streets with limited traffic capacity, and in addition, the great distance between industrial areas and new residential districts called for a linking high-speed transport because the traditional municipal transport cannot cope with the problem.

HOW TO GLUE A BRIDGE?

How to repair an old bridge? May be it would be simpler to demolish it and build a new one? But it turned out that the best way is... to glue it. This version was suggested by Soviet experts, writes MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA.

By using this original idea it took only a week to reinforce and repair the bridge across the Cherech River near Staryaya Russa, Moscow Region. While experts from a building trust were engaged in improvement work, major traffic on the bridge continued all the time.

There are hundreds of big and small bridges on the major roads of Moscow and the region. There are even bridges built before 1918. They were meant for heavy cars weighing 500 pounds (one pound is 16.33 kg) with a team of 8 horses. Their designers of the 30s and 40s were made with a great safety margin but the designers of those years could not even dream of modern loads and speeds. Though traffic is opening each year on new modern bridges, it is practically impossible to replace old outdated ones.

And it is hardly necessary, was the conclusion made by bridge experts. It is sufficient to glue an additional reinforcement to the defective spot, which are

usually the beams of the framework. The new tie forcing layer of metal is glued from the bottom of the structure.

The advantage of the new method is not only its considerable cheapness, the possibility to work without stopping traffic, and in the shortest possible time, notes the paper, but also its simplicity.

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO FILMS MADE BY WRITERS?

Does the attempt of a writer to start work in a new field by using cinematographic means of expression serve his aim? Well-known director and scriptwriter Yevgeny Gubriyevich expresses his view on this point in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, pondering over his film "The Kindergarten" made by poet Yevgeny Yuryevich. According to Gubriyevich, transition of a writer to a vividly expressed individuality, with his own attitude to the world, into characters and relationships which are always so important for him, to cinematography deserves to be respected and backed unconditionally. Not long ago, replacing the pen with a typewriter, the author felt himself as losing much with writer, the author felt himself as losing much with everyone, it seemed to him that the intrusion of a machine in the process of creative work destroyed the magic link between the hand and the sheet of paper. But it is already quite a long time that we use typewriters and dictating machines and life is a great help to us. I believe, says the author, that in 15-20 years a large group of writers will apply in their work cinematographic and TV means, experiencing a vital necessity of literary character and that expressed in plastic methods.

And these new means to transfer artistic information from the author to the reader, listener and operator will give rise to a new type of a writer.

Even cinema using a literary work for its production cannot be content forever with making film versions. It would be an art of reflection. We are about to witness a new alliance of two forms of art, new methods of creative cooperation originated by our technical progress.

When we say an author of the film we usually mean its director. "The Kindergarten", despite the success of its concrete merits and merits, is to be well named precisely as an experiment of a film made by a professional writer, writes Gubriyevich in conclusion.

Places to visit

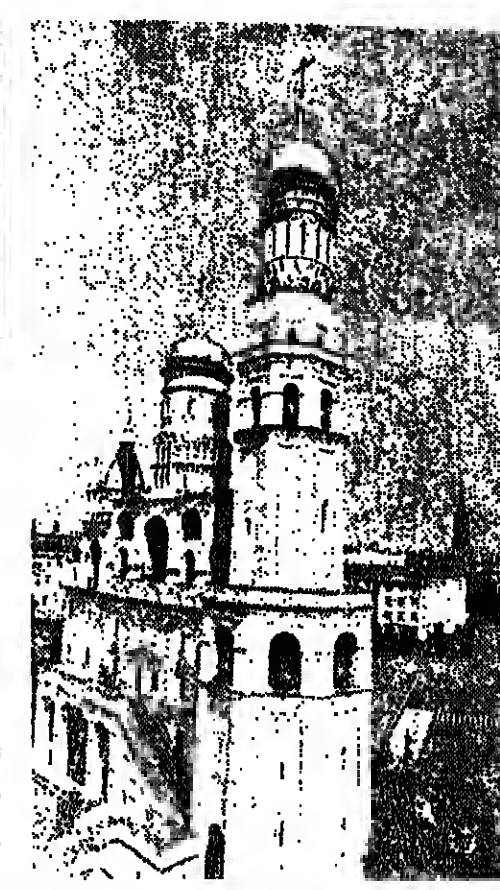
Ivan - the - Great Belfry

This tall, well-harmonized structure of the Moscow Kremlin immediately catches the visitor's eye. During the recent restoration new information was obtained on the origin of the belfry and its construction. It turned out the 18th-century base was only 4.5 metres deep.

To give it stability, its foundation was expanded and a pile cushion was arranged underneath.

The belfry was the tallest structure in Moscow in 17th-18th centuries. From it the surrounding area could be surveyed in the radius of 25 to 30 kilometres. The first three storeys were erected between 1593-1598. During the rule of tsar Boris Godunov in 1600 it reached 81 metres. In 1543 a smaller belfry was added to the tower on its northern side and topped with a helmet-shaped cupola. In 1624 the Filaret Belfry was added to it built in the form of a tent. When Napoleon took Moscow, the smaller belfries were blown only to be restored in 1815.

The belfry, with its height and slenderness, is captivating.



Science and technology

ROBOTS ARE SIMULATED

Even before its drawings are completed the performance of a robot can be evaluated by the use of a computer system developed at Riga Polytechnic.

The efficiency of a robot is the first place on the evaluation, precision and accuracy of arm movements, says V. Sushchikov, head of the expedition. "They lie in active volcanic zones, linked by submarine ridges and troughs. The study of the thermal conditions at the sea bottom in the Gulf of Mexico will not only aid to our theoretical knowledge but also will enable Mexican scientists to start regular investigations to forecast volcanic eruptions."

Mexico is the 7th country whose scientists study the knowledge of Soviet volcanologists. The materials of the completed expedition will be processed at the Institute of Volcanology and limited over to the Geophysics Institute of the University of Mexico.

VOLCANOLOGISTS

PUT TO SEA

To make a detailed analysis of the mechanism of the world's volcanoes it is necessary to go to the bottom of the nearest sea. The hypothesis of Soviet volcanologists, originated as a result of their expeditions to the waters of the Sea of Okhotsk, was confirmed from Kam-

chatka as well — in the Gulf of Mexico. The Soviet research ship "Volcanolog" returned from a distant cruise during which the scientists of the USSR and Mexico studied the seismic characteristics of the ocean bed not far from Central America.

Mexican and Proprietary-Kamchatka can be called twin cities in a geological sense," says V. Sushchikov, head of the expedition. "They lie in active volcanic zones, linked by submarine ridges and troughs. The study of the thermal conditions at the sea bottom in the Gulf of Mexico will not only aid to our theoretical knowledge but also will enable Mexican scientists to start regular investigations to forecast volcanic eruptions."

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ICE TELLS ABOUT THE PAST

The cold thick ice cupola of Antarctica helped Soviet scientists get answers to the controversial questions regarding the origin of sun-scorched deserts of South Africa and Australia. In one of the boreholes of the cupola from the steep wall on the Soviet intercontinental Vostok station, an anomalous con-

RELIABLE SHIELD OF THE COAST

The advance of the Sea of Azov all along its northern coast, where a new all-Union resort zone is being set up, has been stopped. The protective dike has reliably strengthened the coastline within the city limits of Novorossiysk — one of the centres of seaside resorts in the south-east of the Ukraine. The steep Azov shores are prone to landslides. At separate sections the sea "devours" up to a 10-metre wide strip of land in a year. Therefore, it was considered necessary to set up special units of building engineers, which are entrusted with the task of erecting protective dikes and breakwaters. On the lands wrested from the sea new resorts are being built, with beautiful embankments and convenient beaches.

Some 250 summerhouses, holiday huts and tourist centres are already functioning on ancient shores. More than 300,000 people rested there in this season alone.

The strengthening of the Azov coast is one of the measures envisaged by the long-term programme for the development of the resort zone of Donbas — an industrial district in the Ukraine.

'Diamonds' from metal

Restoring museum exhibits by diamond from Moscow received the art of diamond being of steel.

This method originated in Britain in the 17th and early 18th centuries. As a blank served the tool with a head which, after facing and polishing, looked as a precious stone. It could have from 16 to 80 facets with the so-called royal faceting. This skill was acquired by the jewellers of France and Russian gemsmiths from Italy. But this specialist developed a new type of decorative and applied art, household articles of "diamond" steel: chairs, tables, beds, caskets, chandeliers and frames for mirrors.

The experts of the jewellery industry became interested in the investigations of the restorer. They tested steel of various brands to determine which is most suitable for faceting. Most effective than others were hard alloys obtained by the method of powder metallurgy. By introducing dyes into alloys it is possible to obtain metal diamonds of the needed colour. "Diamonds" from hard alloys are not subject to corrosion and hence are durable as natural precious stones. They look effectively on black velvet. Artists and jewellers have already developed about 80 models of ornaments in this material. "Diamonds" from metal also combine well with natural stones—agate, pebble and with artificially cultivated rubies and sapphires and coloured enamels.

In fact, there is an unlimited selection of articles. This year the first series of such ornaments will be on sale in jewellery.

VIEWPOINT

SOVIET TRADE UNIONS TAKING CARE OF WOMEN'S WORKING CONDITIONS

A statute on the procedure for implementing flexible work schedules for women with children was recently adopted in the USSR. In an interview granted to NINA ELVINA NIKOLAYEVNA of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and an expert in women's working conditions, she threw light on this new development.

There are two aspects of the flexible work schedule, says Elvina Nikolayevna. One relates to a mother's obligatory presence at the work place; the second aspect being the limits she considers convenient and suitable for replying to and closing from work, and departing time on as to be able to observe the weekly working hours and cope with the weekly production quota. Sociological research conducted in industries where this scheme of service is being implemented has shown that it is convenient for both female workers and industrial establishments.

Trade unions actively support and propagate in practice of the shorter working days or shorter working weeks for women with small children. But this privilege, E. Novikova says sympathetically, does not entail any limitations in labour rights.

Between 1976 and 1980, continues E. Novikova, seven million women had their working conditions radically improved. She cited as an example the Second Moscow Watch Factory. Though the factory shops are well lighted and the employees, mostly women, are dressed in very clean white overalls... those on the assembly line tell that their work was monotonous. This was an unwelcome signal because it could affect their health. Measures adopted jointly by the trade union and management to resolve the problem included the provision of relaxation parlours, music, showers and massage during breaks.

According to Novikova, virtually every collective agreement concluded annually between the employees and the management contains a section entitled: "Working conditions for women, providing assistance in bringing up children".

Collective agreements are drawn up with direct participation of the workers, and their suggestions, wishes and demands are taken into consideration. The section on female workers provides a solution to issues that are of particular importance to women. It is important, for instance, for a working woman to send her child to the nursery or a kindergarten, Novikova stresses. So the management is under obligation to provide such facilities too, she says.

The collective agreement pays special attention to matters of vocational training for women since the need to continuously raise the working woman's skill remains topical. Novikova added that women who undergo such courses continue to draw their salaries, irrespective of the duration of the course.

THIS WHITE-AND-BLUE GZHEL

Gzhel, one of the oldest ceramic-making centres in the country, has not far from Moscow. Gzhel developed a style of the 19th century thanks to the production of majolica.

Gzhel ceramics, which are famous for their bright, fresh colours. The Gzhel factory is one of the few in the country where painting is done by hand, thus allowing craftsmen to incorporate various motifs of plants and flowers into their designs. Their unusual stores wealth of different shades of blue, ranging from the darkest to the lightest tones, and what makes the articles produced by Gzhel craftsmen unique.

Photos by Georgi Strel'nikov.

